

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Hartwig Preckel  
Serial No.: 10/542,437  
For: METHOD FOR FILLING SAMPLE CARRIERS  
Filed: March 24, 2006  
Examiner: Jan M. Ludlow  
Art Unit: 1797  
Confirmation No.: 2752  
Customer No.: 27,623

Attorney Docket No.: 175.8246USU

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, please find attached hereto form PTO-1449 listing information which may be material to the patentability of this application, filed on March 24, 2006. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- ☐ Within three (3) months of the filing date of the national application;
- ☐ Within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application;
- ☒ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits;
- ☐ After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);

- \_\_\_\_\_ After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to the final action and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);
- \_\_\_\_\_ After the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p); and
- \_\_\_\_\_ After the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to or subsequent to the payment of the Issue Fee and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Filing with RCE Under 37 CFR 1.114, thus no fee is required.

37 C.F.R. 1.98 does not require a copy of U.S. patents or published U.S. patent applications to be included with an information disclosure statement. Accordingly, Applicant is not including a copy of any U.S. patent or published U.S. patent application.

We are also enclosing a copy of the non-US reference listed on the attached PTO-1449.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the references that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed references and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Respectfully submitted,



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